

Appl. No. 10/796,676
Amdt. dated December 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 30, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Abstract has been amended as required by the examiner.

Also, Claims 1 and 4-11 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled and new Claims 12 and 13 are added. Accordingly, it is believed Claims 7-11 and new Claims 12 and 13 are in condition for allowance as these claims were considered to be allowable if the 112 objections were corrected.

Claim 1 has been amended to define over both the Lilienfeld and the De Pew references. Specifically, Claim 1 defines a pallet which is symmetrical in all directions and the top and bottom are identical. This is important in that it allows the top and the bottom of the pallet to be used interchangeably which increases efficiency of use in the field. The stringer spacing has been redefined to call for symmetry in providing larger aligned openings in the top and bottom between the end pairs of stringers and the center or intermediate pairs of stringers than exist between the center pairs of stringers themselves. This allows the protruding ends of the cores on which the plastic film is rolled to be positioned in the openings so that the loaded pallets can be stacked one atop another. This allows the pallet to be used both as a pallet platform and as a load bearing space between each successive stack of rolls.

Both the Lilienfeld and the De Pew devices are not symmetrical and the tops and bottoms are not identical. Lilienfeld has hinged uprights 14 in the spacing between the top stringers which can be pivoted into an upright position to hold mattresses or the like on edge.

Appl. No. 10/796,676
Amdt. dated December 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 30, 2005

The De Pew device has flexible draft-barriers positioned in the space between the top and bottom stringers to help control fires. It does not show the arrangement of stringers and openings or the symmetry defined in Claim 1 and the claims dependant thereon.

It is submitted that neither of the references shows or suggests the pallet claimed in claims 1 and 4-6 and these claims, along with Claims 7-13, are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



William G. Bruns, Reg. No. 19,541
Polster, Lieder, Woodruff & Lucchesi, L.C.
12412 Powerscourt Drive, Suite 200
St. Louis, Missouri 63131-3615
Telephone (314) 238-2400
Facsimile (314) 238-2401

Date: December 28, 2005